

National Capital Region for protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution.

- (ii) An Action Plan for the control of Pollution in the National Capital Region has been prepared.
- (iii) Monitoring of air quality by the Central Pollution Control Board through 10 ambient air quality monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program. The data generated forms the basis for the analysis of the quality of air in the different regions against the prescribed limits.
- (iv) Effluent and emission standards for major sectors of air and water polluting industries have been notified. Industries have been directed to comply with the prescribed standards.
- (v) Emission norms have been progressively tightened for emissions from vehicles at the manufacturing stage. These came into effect on 9.1.1990 with a tighter standard introduced on 1.4.1996. A much stricter emission norm will be introduced from 1.4.2000 for all categories of petrol and diesel vehicles.
- (vi) The Government has drawn up a major program for improvement of the quality of automotive fuels. Unleaded petrol was introduced in Delhi from 1.4.1995 for the use of new 4 wheeler petrol vehicles fitted with catalytic converters introduced from this date. Low sulphur diesel of 0.25% has been introduced in Delhi from 15th August 1997. Pre-mixed fuel oil mixture is being supplied in the retail fuel outlets to prevent sale of loose low quality oils.
- (vii) Introduction of cleaner fuels such as CNG, propane and LPG in in-use vehicles in order to reduce emissions.
- (viii) The public transport system is proposed to be strengthened by inducting 1500 buses of urban design into the DTC fleet.
- (ix) More than 200 private petrol pumps and workshops have been authorised by the Department of Transport, Government of Delhi for pollution checking, tuning of polluting vehicles and issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificates. Pollution checking facilities are being increased.
- (x) The Transport Department has launched public awareness campaigns in Delhi to educate people about the statutory punitive provisions related to vehicular pollution, health hazards, and on the maintenance

measures for control of pollution from vehicles.

- (ix) A system of synchronised signals, and better traffic management of most polluted intersections has been introduced.
- (xii) A number of pollution industries located in non-conforming areas in Delhi have been closed or relocated to conforming areas
- (xiii) A scheme for setting up of common effluent treatment plants in different industrial areas and estates for treating effluents from clusters of small-scale industrial units in Delhi has been taken up.
- (xiv) Cleaning up of the river Yamuna has been taken up under the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan.
- (xv) Electrostatic precipitators have been installed in three thermal power plants in Delhi, at Indraprastha, Rajghat and Badarpur, to prevent the release of suspended particulate matter into the atmosphere. Sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are emitted through stacks of specified height to facilitate wider dispersal so that the ground level concentrations of these gaseous pollutants are kept controlled. Stack monitoring is done on a regular basis.

Poaching of Rare/Endangered Species

*69. Dr. ASIM BALA :

SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether poaching of Tiger and rare species of animals and birds continues to increase unabatedly taking a heavy toll of the animals and birds of rare species while the Government's attempt of checking the poaching is proving to be futile;

(b) if so, the details of poaching in identified pockets of the country, State-wise;

(c) fresh initiatives under consideration of the Union authorities in co-ordination with State Governments to deal with poaching menace more effectively during 1998-99 and Ninth Plan period;

(d) whether Government propose to introduce a comprehensive law for the protection of different endangered species of flora and fauna;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the manner in which this law will benefit our country from the commercial point of view?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, sporadic cases of poaching of wild

animals and birds are reported from different parts of the country.

(c) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(c) Analogous to the Centre, the States have also been asked to set up coordination committees of all enforcement agencies so that there is effective cooperation to check poaching and control illegal trade. Staff in National Parks and Sanctuaries are being provided modern arms, wireless equipment, and communication facilities. The Planning Commission is also being pursued to revive the Centrally sponsored scheme in the IX plan for control of poaching and illegal trade, which was earlier transferred to the State Sector in 1992-93. This will enable the Central Government to effectively support the States in their efforts to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(d) to (f) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended in 1991 is a comprehensive legislation which empowers the State Governments/UTs to have better control over the management of wildlife and protection of the endangered species of flora and fauna. The amended Act is a step further towards providing greater protection to wildlife, and has enhanced the punishment for violations. The law also covers commercial trade.

Pollution on Sea Beaches

*70. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing pollution on the sea beaches in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have issued the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 which lays down stipulations to regulate development activities in coastal areas. Separately standards have been notified for disposal of effluents from land based activities which are being implemented through both the State Pollution Control Boards and the Central Pollution Control Board.

[Translation]

Influences of Media Violence on Children

*71. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Media Violence

influence kids" appearing in the 'Pioneer', dated March 23, 1998;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the programmes telecast by Doordarshan have adverse effect on people specially on the children;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to evolve a national policy on Television or any legislation for the electronic media including Cable T.V. to check the growing display of violence, crime and obscenity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The news report refers to UNESCO inter cultural study, which was not India-specific, but was global, covering a sample of 5000 pupils in 23 different countries, including India also.

(c) and (d) As of now, Prasar Bharati (Doordarshan) previews all its programmes before they are telecast to ensure that they do not contain any excessive violence or vulgarity which may have adverse effect on the viewers. The preview also ensures that programmes are in accordance with the Programme Code and Advertisement Code. The Government have initiated steps for introducing an Amendment Bill for restoring the provisions of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, which, *inter alia*, envisages establishment of a Broadcasting Council to monitor all programmes telecast on Doordarshan. The Cable Networks are governed by the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994. Sections 5 and 6 of the Act require that the programmes/ advertisements carried on channels which can be received only with the help of specialised gadgets/ decoders, adhere to the prescribed Programme/ Advertisement Codes.

[English]

Functioning of Government Run Schools

*72. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any critical study has been made by the Government on the functioning of Government run schools in urban areas with regard to management, facilities available to the students, teacher-student relationship and causes of drop outs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being contemplated by the Government for the proper functioning of such Schools?